

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

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R 301515Z APR 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2485

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MZ

SUBJECT: MOZAMBIQUE SITUATION AS OF 1700 APRIL 30

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 291

1. NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO ARE CARRYING NUMEROUS MESSAGES OF SUPPORT ADDRESSED TO JUNTA OF NATIONAL SALVATION INCLUDING TELEGRAMS FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF NATIVE-BORN MOZAMBICANS, MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF LOURENCO MARQUES, MOZAMBIQUE UNION OF ELECTRICIANS, AND MANY OTHERS. (NOTE: TELEGRAM-SENDING IS NATIONAL PAST TIME HERE).

2. DR. JOANA SIMIAO, VICE PRESIDENT OF GUMO, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN HOTEL TIVOLI IN LOURENCO MARQUES APRIL 30 MORNING TO EXPLAIN AND ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING GUMO'S PROGRAM.

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EM MAY 1 HAS BEEN DECLARED OFFICIAL HOLIDAY IN MOZAMBIQUE. ALTHOUGH ONLY MEETING OF POLITICAL NATURE THUS FAR SCHEDULED IS GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS BEING CALLED BY GOVERNING BOARD OF ACADEMIC ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY OF MOZAMBIQUE (CLOSED TO PUBLIC), WE EXPECT PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS OF SOME SORT TO TAKE PLACE.

4. QUITE A FEW FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS, INCLUDING LEE GRIGGS OF TIME MAGAZINE ARE IN LOURENCO MARQUES FLOATING AROUND BARS, KEEPING EARS TO GROUND AND TRYING COVER POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN MOZAMBIQUE. AS THIS IS A GREAT TOWN FOR UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMORS, INTERNATIONAL NEWS COVERAGE THEREFORE EXPECTED TO BE BOTH EXTENSIVE AND AT TIMES SENSATIONAL. FOR EXAMPLE, JOHANNESBURG STAR OF APRIL 29 CARRIES DRAMATIC FRONTPAGE STORY STATING THAT MILITARY FOILED PLAN BY FORMER GOVERNOR-GENERAL PIMENTEL DOS SANTOS, AN UNNAMED PORTUGUESE GENERAL, AND DGS FOR UDI IN MOZAMBIQUE, BY FLYING IN THREE PLANE LOADS OF PARACHUTE TROOPS, CLOSING LOURENCO MARQUES AIRPORT AND FORCING GOVGEN TO LEAVE COUNTRY. WE AGREE WITH MORE RESPONSIBLE SOURCES WHO CONSIDER THE RUMOR PURE DRIVEL. MORE CREDITWORTHY IS FAIRLY WELL FOUNDED REPORT THAT FOR BRIEF MOMENT DURING PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY ON APRIL 26, GOVGEN TOYED WITH IDEA OF TRYING ORGANIZE A DEMONSTRATION IN HIS OWN SUPPORT - BUT HAD GIVEN THIS UP AS EVENTS BECAME CLARIFIED BY NEXT MORNING.

5. NOTICIAS DA BEIRA OF APRIL 28 CARRIED REPORT DATELINED LISBON TO EFFECT THAT GENERAL SILVINO SILVERIO MARQUES, FORMER GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF ANGOLA AND SECOND MILITARY COMMANDER OF MOZAMBIQUE, WHOSE BROTHER IS MEMBER OF NEW JUNTA, WOULD BE NAMED NEXT GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF MOZAMBIQUE, BUT NOTICIAS OF APRIL 29 CARRIED JUNTA'S DENIAL THAT MARQUES IS BEING CONSIDERED FOR MOZAMBIQUE POST.

6. ACCORDING TO MOZAMBIQUE RADIO NEWS, POLITICAL GROUP CALLING THEMSELVES "DEMOCRATAS" HAVE SENT TELEGRAM TO JUNTA AND TO ACTING GOVERNOR-GENERAL REQUESTING DISSOLUTION OF MOZAMBIQUE LEGISLATIVE ASSMBLY. TELEGRAM REPORTEDLY CALLS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY "FASCIST GROUP", NO LONGER REPRESENTING MOZAMBICAN PEOPLE, AND POINTS OUT THAT ASSEMBLY RECENTLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REJECTED POLICIES RECOMMENDED BY GENERAL SPINOLA IN HIS BOOK. "DEMOCRATAS" REQORTEDLY LED BY OPPOSITION LAWYERS OF LEFTIST ORIENTATION, INCLUDING CARLOS MANUEL ADRIO RODRIGUES, ANTONIO PEREIRA LEITE, AND RUY B. DO SANTOS ALVES.

7. IN SUM, MOOD IN LOURENCO MARQUES IS ONE OF GROWING EXCITEMENT AND SPECULATION OVER POLITICAL EVENTS WITH

RUMORS ABOUNDING.
VAN OSS

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